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COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON HOUSE MEASURES

COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Ecology	HBs 409 & 2268	Reps. Romualdo and Fortun	Preventing and controlling pollution from ships, providing penalties for violation thereof	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Glona Labadlabad (2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte), agreed to create a technical working (TWG) group to consolidate the six bills and come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Benitez (3rd District, Negros Occidental) was designated as TWG Chair.</p> <p>Reps. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City) and Manuel Cabochan III (Party-List, MAGDALO), respective authors of HBs 739 and 6739, said that their bills seek to increase the penalties imposed against polluters of navigable waters. They said that this will serve as a deterrence against irresponsible dumping of waste and other hazardous materials at sea.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the bills were the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).</p> <p>On the other hand, the resource persons from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (PHILPESTA), University of the Philippines’ (UP) Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea (IMLOS), Ateneo De Manila University, Miriam College, and Oceana Philippines recommended that the proposed law should be aligned with existing international maritime laws such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).</p> <p>The MARPOL is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.</p> <p>The resource persons were requested to submit their respective position papers on the bills for the TWG’s reference in crafting the substitute bill.</p>
	HBs 739, 4204 & 6739	Reps. Biazon, Vargas, and Cabochan	Increasing the penalty imposed against polluters of navigable waters by amending Section 7 of PD 979, otherwise known as the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976	
	HB 1865	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez	Regulating shipping vessels coasting Philippine waters for the protection of shores	
Higher and Technical Education	Substitute Bill to HBs 3795, 84, 510, 1099,	Deputy Speaker Rodriguez, Reps. Garbin Castro (F.L.),	Enhancing the continuing professional development (CPD) of Filipino professionals as an integral component of the career progression and specialization	The Committee, chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go, approved the Substitute Bill to the 11 bills subject to style and amendment.

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education	3340, 3894, 4137, 6662, 7032, 7132 & 7410	Salo, Herrera- Dy, Silverio, Deputy Speaker Romero, Reps. Cayetano, Tambunting, Delos Santos, and Deputy Speaker Villanueva	programs, amending for the purpose RA 10912, otherwise known as the CPD Act of 2016, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), author of HB 3795, said that the CPD is necessary to strengthen professions in the country. The intent of his bill is to make it easier for the workers and professionals to comply with the requirements of the CPD law, and make the law less of a burden to them.</p> <p>Rep. Ferdinand Gaité (Party-List, BAYAN MUNA) commented that making the CPD mandatory will be restrictive to many professionals.</p> <p>Rep. Go clarified that the CPD (requiring 45 credit units every four years) is not mandatory for the renewal of professional license but it is mandatory for career progression. He also clarified that senior citizens who are no longer engaged in their profession are exempted from the CPD compliance.</p>
	HR 1195	Rep. Castelo	Commending and congratulating the University of the Philippines (UP) and De La Salle University (DLSU) for retaining their respective spots in the latest world university rankings released by London- based Times Higher Education (THE)	<p>The Committee adopted HR 1195 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>UP Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Carla Dimalanta expressed her gratitude to the Committee for recognizing UP's achievement in the recent world university rankings by the THE.</p> <p>Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Director for International Affairs Lily Freida Milla informed the body that 14 Philippine higher education institutions (HEIs) were also included in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Ranking in Asia for 2021.</p> <p>QS is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insights to the global higher education sector. Its university ranking portfolio has become the world's most popular source of comparative data about university performance (<i>Source: QS website</i>).</p> <p>Deputy Speaker Rodriguez said that a <i>motu proprio</i> House Resolution should also be adopted by the Committee commending these 14 HEIs.</p> <p>The Committee approved the recommendation of Deputy Speaker Rodriguez.</p>
	HBs 7473 & 7809	Rep. Bañas- Nogales	Establishing the College of Medicine in Mindanao State University (MSU), General Santos City campus, providing for its governance, appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HBs 7473 and 7809 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales (1st District, South Cotabato), author of HBs 7473 and 7809, underscored the need to establish a College of Medicine in the MSU campus to produce more doctors citing the wide gap in the ratio of patients and physicians in Region 12.</p> <p>CHED's Programs Development Division Chief Buenaventura Macatangay said that there are</p>

Continuation... Higher and Technical Education				<p>still minor requirements that need to be complied by the MSU.</p> <p>MSU Chancellor Anshari Ali said that the university is already in the process of compiling all the documentary requirements of CHED.</p>
	HBs 7557, 7682 & 7795	Reps. Dalog, Mangaoang, and Garcia (J.E.)	Establishing provincial/field offices of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in Mountain Province and in the Provinces of Kalinga and Bataan, respectively, and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved the three bills subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Expressing their support to the bills were the CHED and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC).</p>
	HB 7857	Rep. Tan (A.)	Establishing a medical school in the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) main campus in the Municipality of Lucban, Province of Quezon to be known as the Southern Luzon State University – College of Medicine and appropriating funds therefor	<p>The Committee approved HB 7857 subject to style and amendment.</p> <p>Macatangay expressed his support to the bill but that the SLSU should comply with CHED's requirements.</p> <p>SLSU President Doracie Zoleta-Nantes said that the university is committed to comply with the requirements set by CHED.</p>
	HB 7752	Rep. Vargas	Establishing a Filipino Sign Language (FSL) Studies Program	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to consider the comments and recommendations of the different stakeholders and to come up with a substitute bill.</p> <p>Rep. Go said that there is a need to clarify if the proposed FSL studies program will be offered in both undergraduate and postgraduate studies and whether the program will be offered as a course or a degree program.</p> <p>Dimalanta of UP recommended that prior to becoming a full-blown degree program, the proposed FSL studies should start as a general education elective course first. She also proposed that CHED should instead establish in every region a regional center for FSL studies to be located in an HEI that will be the center of excellence for FSL.</p> <p>The stakeholders recommended that incentives be granted to state universities and colleges (SUCs) that will offer FSL studies program in the form of guaranteed funding in their annual appropriations.</p> <p>Likewise, there should be a provision in the bill requiring the involvement of the members of the deaf community/organizations in the creation of the curriculum content and administration of the FSL program.</p>
Local Government	HB 2221	Rep. Radaza	Declaring April 27 of every year as regular holiday throughout the country, to commemorate the victory of Lapu-Lapu and his men over the Spaniards led by Ferdinand Magellan in the historic Battle of Mactan on April 27, 1521 to be known as	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Noel Villanueva (3rd District, Tarlac), approved HB 2221.</p> <p>Lapu-Lapu City Rep. Paz Radaza, author of HB 2221, explained the importance of</p>

Continuation... Local Government			Lapu-Lapu Day or <i>Adlaw Ni Lapu-Lapu</i> , amending RA 11040	<p>commemorating throughout the country the victory of Lapu-Lapu and his men against the Spaniards during the Battle of Mactan in 1521. She said that at present, the event is only commemorated in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.</p> <p>Employers Confederation of the Philippines Legal Services Manager Robert Maronilla expressed reservation on the bill. He said that additional holidays adversely affect businesses, especially the micro enterprises, since there will be no production and outputs on those days.</p>
	HBs 5637, 7089, 7254 & 7255	Reps. Almario, Yap (E.), and Deputy Speaker Oaminal	Declaring special working/nonworking holidays in certain parts of the country to commemorate historical or special events	The Committee approved the four bills.
	HBs 6344 & 6410	Rep. Singson-Meehan	Creating barangays to be known as Barangays Butac and Kinapian in the Municipality of Suyo, Province of Ilocos Sur, respectively	<p>The Committee approved HBs 6344 and 6410.</p> <p>Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan (2nd District, Ilocos Sur), author of HBs 6344 and 6410, said that all requirements for the proposed creation of Barangays Butac and Kinapian in the Municipality of Suyo, Province of Ilocos Sur, were complied with.</p>
	HBs 5687 & 7778	Reps. Bernos and Yap (E.)	Establishing the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera	<p>The Committee agreed to create a technical working group (TWG) to discuss the bills further.</p> <p>The TWG will be co-chaired by Baguio City Rep. Mark Go and Mt. Province Rep. Maximo Dalog Jr.</p> <p>Reps. Go, Dalog, and Allen Jesse Mangaoang (Kalinga), co-authors of HB 5687, said that the establishment of the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera is long overdue. They said that the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has long been established and the time is ripe to once again present to the Cordillerans the opportunity to realize their aspirations of genuine autonomy.</p> <p>Section 15, Article X of the 1987 Constitution provides that there shall be created autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras. According to the bill's authors, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was already established, but not the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.</p> <p>Rep. Villanueva said that in discussing the proposed law, the TWG should look into the requirements for autonomy as provided for in the Philippine Constitution, Executive Order 220 series of 1987, and RA 6658.</p> <p>EO 220 created the CAR in 1987, while RA 6658 created the Cordillera Regional Consultative Commission to assist and participate in the formulation by Congress of</p>

Continuation... Local Government				the Organic Act for the Autonomous Regions in the Cordilleras.
	HB 5502	Rep. Amante-Matba	Creating a barangay to be known as Barangay Songkoy in the Municipality of Kitcharao, Province of Agusan del Norte	The Committee deferred consideration of the three bills.
	HBs 5339 & 5394	Rep. Tolentino	Declaring special working/nonworking holidays in Maragondon, Cavite to commemorate historical or special events	

AGENCY BRIEFINGS		
COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)	<p>Briefing by the following agencies on the state of the creative industries in the Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), listened to the briefing by the DOST, DepEd, and CHED on the state of the creative industries in the country.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. De Venecia recognized the importance of the programs and projects of various government agencies for the development of the Philippine arts and culture.</p> <p>DOST Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) Executive Director Enrico Paringit said that creative industries include motion picture, video and television program production, sound recording, music publishing, programming and broadcasting activities, computer programming, and information service activities.</p> <p>Some of the DOST's programs and projects for creative industries include the following: Industry Defined 2D Basic Animation Course; Original Content Development Project; Development of a Philippine Indigenous Instrument Sounds Database; and Bamboo Musical Instruments Innovation R&D Program. Likewise, Paringit presented the DOST's Startup Research Grant Program, a funding opportunity for startups and technology business incubators (TBIs) to translate their early stage technologies into market through research and development (R&D).</p> <p>Moving forward, Paringit said that the DOST seeks funding for the following R&D projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Capacity Building for Motion Capture Production (P120 million); Technology Development Center or Small Film Producers (P140 million); Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality for Cyber-Tourism (P21 million); and Creatives in Smart Cities (P24 million). <p>Paringit also announced that a summit entitled "LIKHAINnovate: An S&T Consultation for the Advancement of Creative Industries," will be held on December 18. The summit aims to discuss the current status, issues and concerns of the creative industries in the country.</p> <p>Rep. De Venecia inquired about the human resource demand of the animation sector. Paringit replied that skilled animators are hired per project basis. He added that the learners that joined DOST's training programs on animation had already contributed animated videos on the prevention of the transmission of COVID-19.</p>

<p>Continuation... Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOST - Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) Department of Education (DepEd) 	<p>DOST- PTRI Director Celia Elumba presented the status of the textile industry. She said that the industry has a great potential for growth considering the abundance of the country's rich natural textile fibers, such as piña, abaca, banana, and Philippine silk. However, limited funding for the industry hampers its growth and development.</p> <p>Elumba said that Proclamation No. 313, series of 2012, which declared the month of January of every year as the "Philippine Tropical Fabrics Month," helps promote products indigenous to the Philippines.</p> <p>To further promote the growth of the industry, Elumba suggested revisiting RA 9242 or the Philippine Tropical Fabric Law, which prescribed the use of Philippine tropical fabrics for official uniforms of government officials and employees. She said that the law should be amended to include other natural textile fibers such as bamboo. She also underscored the need to incentivize textile mills supporting the implementation of RA 9242. Likewise, the review and approval of the Philippine Tropical Fabric Roadmap will serve as blueprint for the country's textile industry, she added.</p> <p>Rep. Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas) asked why piña fiber harvested in the Philippines is being processed in Europe and whether the country does not have the ability to process its natural fibers.</p> <p>Elumba said that the country is capable of processing the natural fibers and stressed that it is worth investing in. When asked if the government has invested in the industry, Elumba said that the government leaves the matter to the private sector to avoid competing with the latter.</p> <p>Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo (2nd District, Marikina City) pointed out the concept of "competitive neutrality" and encouraged the DOST-PTRI to be directly involved in developing the textile industry of the country even if it would mean competing with the private sector. She explained that what is important is that the government should not have undue advantage over the private sector.</p> <p>DepEd Bureau of Curriculum Development Assistant Director Samuel Soliven said that creativity is an essential component of RA 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. He said that more applied learning experiences on creative industries are evident in the Special Programs in the Arts (SPA) and Special Program in Technical Vocational Education (SPTVE).</p> <p>Soliven also mentioned that the DepEd has programs related to fashion, visual arts, furniture, literature, print and digital media, software and game development, and animation. He further stated that the possible careers in the creative industries that the learners may pursue include those related to music, dance, creative writing, media arts, visual arts, and theater arts.</p> <p>He added that in implementing DepEd's programs relative to creative industries, it works with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA), Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), National Museum, and the local government units (LGUs).</p> <p>Meanwhile, National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) Executive Director Daisy Atienza said that the NCCT, an attached agency of the DepEd, was created pursuant to RA 8370 or the Children's Television Act of 1997. The NCCT is primarily mandated to promote and encourage the production and broadcast of quality television programs for children. To achieve this, the NCCT monitors TV stations by requiring them to allot a minimum of 15%</p>
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<p><i>Continuation...</i> Creative Industry and Performing Arts (Special Committee)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Higher Education (CHED) 	<p>of their daily airtime to child-friendly programs to be shown during child-viewing hours.</p> <p>Atienza said that NCCT had already produced <i>Oyayi</i>, the first grantee of the National Endowment Fund for Children's Television which NCCT administers.</p> <p>On the query of Rep. De Venecia, Atienza said that the NCCT is presently not generating income from the child-friendly contents that it produces. She, however, said that she is amenable to the idea that the NCCT will generate income in the future even if it cannot retain or use such income for its operations.</p> <p>CHED's Office of Programs and Standards Development (OPSD) Assistant Chief Aline Magalong presented the Commission's initiatives relative to creative industries, as well as CHED's policies, standards and guidelines that govern the implementation and management of programs related to this sector.</p> <p>Magalong said that one of the major thrusts of CHED is the creation of new technical panels for game development and animation to strengthen engagement between the academe and creative industries and enhance the relevance and responsiveness of the higher education curricula.</p> <p>On the other hand, CHED Technical Committee of Fine Arts (TCFA) representative Leonardo Rosete said that the suspension of the traditional face-to-face classes due to the pandemic will create the following opportunities: development of blended learning modalities; complementation of resources between schools and industry partners; enhancement of current programs and development of new ones; and attracting international students as well as faculty.</p> <p>However, the suspension of face-to-face classes has its disadvantages, such as the migration of local students and faculty to foreign schools and establishment of offshore programs by transnational schools. Rosete sought the support of the government to counter these threats like providing funds for schools' research programs, providing scholarships in advance studies, and relaxing the restrictions on the use of school studios and laboratories subject to compliance with health protocols.</p>
<p>Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)</p>	<p>Briefing by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) on the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)</p>	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Esmael Mangudadatu (2nd District, Maguindanao), listened to the presentation of the OPAPP on the status of implementation of the CAB.</p> <p>At the outset, Rep. Mangudadatu said that a week earlier, the representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) presented before the Committee an update on the status of the Government of the Philippines (GPH)-MILF peace agreement, particularly on the normalization process. Rep. Mangudadatu said that in the presentation, the Committee was informed that the implementation of the normalization component of the CAB has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic that seriously restricted mobility and strained government resources.</p> <p>Rep. Mangudadatu noted that even though the stakeholders wanted to expedite the implementation of the CAB based on the projected timeline, the decommissioning of MILF combatants could not yet be fully realized considering that national finances have been focused on interventions designed to respond to the pandemic. Thus, funding the P40 billion worth of assistance to the decommissioned 40,000 combatants is arguably unrealistic at this</p>

Continuation...
Peace, Reconciliation
and Unity
(Special Committee)

time, he said. Nevertheless, he remained appreciative that in spite of these challenges, the implementation of the CAB will still move forward.

OPAPP Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. reported that much progress has been achieved by both the GPH and the MILF peace implementing panels relative to the Bangsamoro peace process, under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. He affirmed the government's commitment to realize the aspirations of the Bangsamoro People as enshrined in the peace agreement and RA 11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL); and to guarantee that the implementation of the CAB will be on track.

Galvez professed that the implementation of the GPH-MILF accord will endure, notwithstanding the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the OPAPP acknowledges the reality that the current health crisis has crucially affected the activities on the ground, such that the movement of peace workers and international peace partners has been restricted. Moreover, available funds have been reduced because a significant portion thereof was used for emergency purposes. Thus, the P1.4 billion package intended for 14,000 MILF combatants to be decommissioned this year has yet to be released by the government.

Galvez informed the Committee of the BTA's recent conference with President Duterte seeking to extend the period of transition until 2025. He admitted recommending to the President that the same be given due consideration. He claimed that for the transition to be effective and successful, ample time should be accorded the BTA. According to him, the proposed extension of the Bangsamoro transition period for three more years is necessary to complete the implementation of the provisions of the CAB. He said that even the President agreed that the original period prescribed to accomplish the feat is too short and far from being realistic. Under the BOL, the BARMM shall undergo a three-year transition period, which began in 2019 and will end in 2022.

OPAPP Undersecretary David Diciano, chair of the GPH Peace Implementing Panel, updated the Committee on the developments in the Normalization Process as part of the implementation of the CAB.

Diciano presented the roadmap of the CAB, which has two inter-related components, namely: the Political Track and the Normalization Track. Based on the roadmap, Diciano said the Normalization Process should already be in Phase 3 with the ratification of the BOL and the establishment of the BTA.

Diciano disclosed that 12,000 or 30% out of the 40,000 MILF combatants have already been decommissioned. He noted that under the original plan, another 35% or 14,000 MILF combatants were set to be decommissioned under Phase 3 by 2020 and the remaining 14,000 or 35% were expected to be decommissioned under Phase 4, targeted to be completed by 2022, or before the signing of the Exit Agreement. However, he lamented that the timeline for the implementation of activities under the Normalization Process has been drastically disrupted by the pandemic. Diciano expressed hope that, as they have been close partners in the road towards the passage of the BOL, the OPAPP and Congress may tread the same path towards the completion of the CAB aimed at instituting just and lasting peace in the BARMM.

Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano (Party-List, ABANG LINGKOD) manifested that the official third-party international

<p><i>Continuation...</i> Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Special Committee)</p>	<p>monitoring team (IMT) should be invited in the Committee meeting and present its own assessment in order to balance the presentations of the BARMM and the OPAPP.</p> <p>The Minority Leader also inquired about the status of the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliamentary Forum which was supposed to be created under the BOL.</p> <p>Both BARMM Attorney General Sha Elijah Dumama-Alba and OPAPP Assistant Secretary Wilben Mayor manifested that BTA Speaker Ali Pangalian Balindong is in the best position to respond to the query of the Minority Leader. Nonetheless, Dumama-Alba gave information that on November 23, Balindong had a meeting with House Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco (Marinduque), but she was not privy to what transpired during the meeting. On the other hand, Mayor confirmed that the forum has not yet been convened.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo (1st District, Lanao del Norte) wondered why the number of combatants to be decommissioned is not commensurate to the number of firearms that the MILF should surrender. He said that if there are 40,000 combatants, then 40,000 high powered firearms should also be surrendered to the government. However, only 7,500 firearms were agreed by the GPH and MILF to be decommissioned. Rep. Dimaporo said that a proper inventory of the MILF firearms should have been undertaken beforehand.</p> <p>Galvez explained that the MILF categorized their firearms as organization firearms, individually-owned firearms, and firearms borrowed from individuals. The 7,500 firearms that were agreed to be turned over to the government are the organization firearms.</p> <p>Rep. Dimaporo advised that the firearms individually-owned by MILF combatants and those borrowed from individuals should at the very least be licensed. He fears that unaccounted firearms may be used by private armies. He likewise cited reports that people are being recruited to become members of the MILF so that they can receive a P1 million assistance allocated for each MILF decommissioned combatant. He told the OPAPP that the decommissioning process should be done properly.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of the conduct of the Bangsamoro election in 2022, Rep. Dimaporo asked OPAPP if the agency is monitoring the developments on the proposed Electoral Code for the Bangsamoro. He said that the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) can proceed with Bangsamoro election if the Electoral Code is approved by October 2021.</p> <p>OPAPP Chief of Staff Joint Normalization Division Director Farrah Grace Naparan said that part of the OPAPP's role is to monitor the implementation of the CAB. However, the BTA and the Bangsamoro Parliament are supposed to monitor the specific details on the progress of the Electoral Code, Naparan added. Rep. Dimaporo disagreed with the explanation of Naparan as the solon believes that OPAPP is mandated to do such monitoring to ensure that voters will not be disenfranchised in the BARMM.</p> <p>BARMM Attorney General Dumama-Alba informed the Committee that the Electoral Code is still at the Bangsamoro Cabinet Committee level and has not yet been submitted to the Bangsamoro Parliament.</p>
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